

ANCHOR BAY HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

P. DAVID VISNAW II & MOLLY J. DEE, CO-DIRECTORS
WWW.ANCHORBAYBANDS.ORG



June 1, 2010

Dear 2010-11 Wind Ensemble Students and Parents:

CONGRATULATIONS! The 2010 - 2011 Anchor Bay High School Wind Ensemble has been chosen to perform at the annual Michigan Music Conference. This is the highest honor a high school band can receive in the State of Michigan and we are honored to once again be a part of this prestigious event.

This year, the conference will be held at the DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from January 20th – 22nd, 2011. The performance will take place in the beautiful DeVos Performance Hall, a 2400-seat performing arts theatre that is home to The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Grand Rapids Ballet Company, Broadway Theatre Guild, and Opera Grand Rapids. Performing in this venue will prove to be a truly special experience for our students. In addition, the audience will be made up of band and choir directors, university professors and students, administrators, and friends and family - all of whom will be there to hear the ABHS Wind Ensemble perform!

On our website, we will be setting up a Michigan Music Conference (MMC) article in the "News Room." The article will contain all content pertaining to the performance including schedule, maps, hotel information, etc. More information about the performance will be forth coming. In the mean time, I will be working on lining up potential guest artists/conductors and spending hours of listening and score study to help determine the concert program.

What YOU can do this summer is to make sure that your chops are well-maintained by playing Wednesday nights in the Anchor Bay Community Band (at MS North), taking private lessons, and/or practicing regularly. If you are not currently taking private lessons, I strongly recommend that you seek out the extra instruction for the good of the ensemble. There are many teachers in our immediate area. If needed, please email me for that information.

Along with the information above, the purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the potential commitments a conference performance would entail. In addition to our regularly schedule events, **please block out the 2011 dates below and avoid scheduling vacations, etc.** as it is of the utmost importance that we have 100% of the membership available for each commitment. Remember, this is a REALLY BIG deal!

January 8	Most likely, a Saturday-morning clinic/rehearsal
January 11	"Send-Off" Concert for the MMC @ ABHS
January 20, 21, & 22	All possible performance dates at the MMC

Because this will be an overnight event, there will be a minimal cost per student associated with the trip. In year's past, this has been about \$125 to help defray the cost of the travel, food, and hotel lodging needed to pull off this exciting event. The AB Band Boosters will be covering most of the costs associated with the overall performance and prep. More detailed information will be available in the fall.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I can be reached over the summer by email at dvisnaw@anchorbaybands.org. You can also leave a message on my office phone, 586.648.2500, ext. 2359, but it may take me a while to respond.

This is truly going to be an exciting and memorable process for us all!

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. David Visnaw II". The signature is stylized and includes a flourish at the end.

P. David Visnaw II
Instrumental Music Director

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